



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

SEVENTH ANNUAL JAVITS-WAGNER-O'DAY (JWOD) WEEK

In addition to being the start of a new Fiscal Year, October is also National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The JWOD Program observes its seventh annual National JWOD Week from October 12-20, 2002. This year's theme, "JWOD Works For America", reminds us that an essential component to a successful and fulfilling life is the ability to express one's own unique creativity and talents through work. Since its inception in 1938, this unique Federal procurement program has provided employment to thousands of individuals with severe disabilities, enabling them to lead more productive and independent lives. Under the JWOD program, supplies and services purchased by DOE and other Federal agencies currently generate jobs for over 40,000 Americans who are blind or have other severe disabilities. A new goal of creating 50,000 jobs has recently been established. Total sales under the JWOD Program exceed \$1 billion annually.

The Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled administers the JWOD Program in partnership with national nonprofit organizations, National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH, serving people with a range of severe disabilities. NIB and NISH assist over 600 community-based agencies across the Nation in their efforts to train and employ people with severe disabilities on Federal contracts under the Program.

JWOD Week events will be hosted at the Department of Interior located at 1849 C Street, NW on October 2, 2002, from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM; the Department of Veteran Affairs on October 3, 2002, located at 810 Vermont Ave., NW from 8:45 AM – 1:00 PM; and NASA Headquarters on October 7, 2002, located at 4th and E Streets, SW.

In his New Freedom Initiative for people with disabilities, President Bush cites the 70% unemployment rate that exists in this population, and he pledges his Administration's commitment to increasing the ability of Americans with disabilities to integrate into the workforce.

The JWOD program's goal is to satisfy Federal customers while providing work experience and marketable job skills to persons with severe disabilities. This represents the Nation's largest unemployed pool of talented, skilled, knowledgeable and dedicated people. The major challenges to productive employment of qualified people with disabilities are attitudinal barriers and false assumptions about what people can do and cannot do. With proper training and the support services provided by nonprofit organizations associated with the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH, people with severe disabilities are a productive and valuable asset in the workforce.

JWOD Week is intended to raise the awareness of this important procurement program and to recognize the crucial role played by Federal personnel, whose purchases of JWOD items have a direct correlation to the Program's success. Taking place during National Disability Employment Awareness Month, JWOD Week is an ideal time for Federal personnel to revisit their procurement needs and renew their interest in supporting the JWOD Program. This Program provides Federal personnel with quality supplies and services, on time, at reasonable prices.

Please learn more about the important role you can play in this Program at www.jwod.gov and make a special effort to show your support during its celebration of National JWOD Week, October 12-20. The DOE liaison to the JWOD Program is Jeffrey Rubenstein, ME-641, (202) 287-1516.